

Montana Upland Game Bird Forecast Table	
Fall 2010	
Region 1	Forecast
Dusky Grouse	Expect average or below average abundance this fall. Last year's harvest was well above average. Recurring cold wet conditions throughout June will have impacted chick survival. Later hatches would have enjoyed good conditions.
Ruffed Grouse	Expect below average abundance this fall. Last year's harvest was 124% of average, highest since 2001. Hatch and early brood period were plagued with cool and cold wet conditions through much of June, which would have affected chick survival in this region.
Spruce Grouse	Expect average or below average abundance. Early hatches would have been subject to cold wet weather. Later hatches would have had good conditions for rearing broods.
Pheasant	Expect below average abundance. Last year's harvest was about 65% of recent average. Substantial moisture during late May and first half of June associated with cool and periodic cold temperatures would have affected half or more of the hatching and early brood period.
Region 2	Forecast
Dusky Grouse	Anticipate average, comparable to last year. Moisture and cold conditions during hatching period were less severe than further north.
Ruffed Grouse	Anticipate some improvement over last year--near average. Cold wet weather during early and mid June was more severe in the northern portions of Region 2. Last year's harvest was 80% of average.
Spruce Grouse	Expect average abundance, similar to last year.
Pheasant	Expect similar or improved abundance relative to last year. Last year's harvest was above average. Spring conditions were generally good.

<b>Region 3</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Dusky Grouse	Expect slight improvement from last year, closer to average. Last year's harvest was 84% of average. Experienced two cold wet days early in the hatching period but overall good growing conditions.
Ruffed Grouse	Expect average abundance. South Beaverhead, Madison, and Gallatin experienced the most severe combination of cold and wet conditions, which likely affected chick survival.
Spruce Grouse	Expect average to below average abundance. Last year's harvest was near average.
Gray Partridge	Expect some improvement over last year, closer to average. Early hatches were affected by two days of cold and wet, but conditions improved thereafter.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Expect average abundance, comparable to last year. Early hatches would have been subject so cool wet conditions.
Sage-grouse	Expect about average abundance. Good growing conditions for rearing broods but periodic cold and wet weather scattered over June.
Pheasant	Expect average abundance this fall. Last year's harvest was slightly above average.
<b>Region 4 North</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Dusky Grouse	Expect near average abundance, comparable to last year. Latter half of hatching and brood period experienced good conditions overall.

Gray Partridge	Expect below average abundance again this year. Cold moist weather during start of peak hatch period will have affected chick survival. Better conditions followed with good brood habitat.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Expect below average to average abundance. Cold wet conditions at start of peak hatch affected early hatches.
Pheasant	Expect some improvement over last year but still below average. Open winter after early January helped with adult survival. Cold wet conditions at start of hatch in late May affected early hatches. Off and on cool and wet through June but not extreme.
<b>Region 4 South</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Dusky Grouse	Expect some improvement over last year but still below recent average. Moisture during latter half of June was generally warmer and overall beneficial for rearing broods.
Ruffed Grouse	Expect improvement from last year, near average abundance.
Gray Partridge	Anticipate below average abundance. Last year's harvest was average. Deep snow event at end of April and early May, may have affected adult survival in Judith Basin and eastern Cascade counties. Cold wet during June 16-18 would have also affected chick survival.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Expect abundance similar to last year, above average. Early hatches would have been affected by late May cold and wet conditions. Possibility of nest abandonment due to heavy rains end of May in eastern Fergus and Petroleum County.
Sage-grouse	Expect below average abundance. Lek counts were among lowest experienced in recent years.

Pheasant	Expect near average abundance with some exceptions. Deep snow event at end of April and early May, may have affected adult survival in Judith Basin and eastern Cascade counties. Possibility of nest abandonment due to heavy rains end of May in eastern Fergus and Petroleum County.
<b>Region 5</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Dusky Grouse	Anticipate above average abundance, similar to last year.
Ruffed Grouse	Above average abundance predicted, similar to last year.
Gray Partridge	Expect average or better abundance.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Expect average or better abundance. Cool wet weather in June was broken up with warmer conditions.
Sage-grouse	Expect below average abundance. Male counts on leks were among lowest experienced in recent years.
Pheasant	Expect near average, may be some improvement over last year. Nest abandonment may have occurred in portions of eastern Fergus and Petroleum Counties due to substantial rain event in late May.
<b>Region 6 West</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Gray Partridge	Expect similar to last year, below average. Last year's harvest was 55% of average. Rain event in mid-June dropped 3+ inches of moisture over 3 days during cool to cold conditions. Weather improved thereafter.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Expect below average abundance. Early hatches, particularly in Phillips and Valley counties would have experienced substantial moisture and cool temperatures in late May.
Sage-grouse	Early hatches would have been subject to considerable moisture end of May. Expect average abundance this fall. Lek counts were near average in this area.

Pheasant	Expect average to above average abundance but down from last year. Wet weather in mid June may have affected chick survival.
<b>Region 6 East</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Gray Partridge	Expect near average abundance. May be some improvement over last year.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	May be slight improvement over last year, remaining below average. Last year's harvest was 74% of average.
Pheasant	Expect below average abundance but may be slight improvement over last year. Snow conditions were not as bad as winter 2008/09. Spring conditions were generally good during the latter part of the hatching period. Crowing counts were slightly up from 2009.
<b>Region 7 North</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Gray Partridge	Moisture indicators suggest another above average fall for gray partridge. Last year's harvest was 29% above recent average.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Expect average or better fall abundance. Last year's harvest was 92% of average. Extreme precipitation event during end of May may have caused nest abandonment in western Garfield county.
Sage-grouse	Expect below average abundance. Male counts on leks were below average and below 2009 counts.
Pheasant	Expect near average, improvement from 2009. Last year's harvest was 63% of average.
<b>Region 7 South</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Gray Partridge	Anticipate above average abundance similar to last year.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Expect average or better abundance, comparable to last year. Harvest last year was 26% above average.

<b>Sage-grouse</b>	<b>Expect below average abundance with some improvement over last year.</b>
<b>Pheasant</b>	<b>Expect above average abundance, similar or improved from last year. Last year's harvest was 24% above the recent average.</b>